GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2677
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005
CLEARANCE FOR PETROL PUMPS
Kuppusami Shri C.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications of oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for permission to use forest land for the approaches of petrol pumps pending with the Government for clearance, State-wise;

(b) since when such cases are pending ;

(c) the time likely to be taken for giving such clearance ;

(d) whether the Government has issued instructions to close down such petrol pumps as those pending with the Government for clearance; and

(e) if not, the reasons for closure of petrol pumps in Haryana and Punjab ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)to(c) 44 proposals of Government of Punjab and 18 proposals of Government o f Haryana, pertaining to oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for permission to use forest land for approaches to petrol pumps have been recently received and are being examined. These cases have been received during the month of November 2005. A time limit of 60 days has been prescribed, as per the Forest

(Conservation) Rules, 2003, for the Central Government to take a decision on receipt of a complete proposal for diversion of forest land. The proposals received for diversion of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are examined on merit and as per the rules and guidelines made under the Act.

(d)&(e) No such instructions for closure of petrol pumps have been issued by the Ministry or by the Forest Department, Government of Haryana. In Punjab, some Deputy Commissioners had issued provisional No Objection Certificate (NOC) for setting up of the petrol pumps, in anticipation of approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for construction of approach roads.On intimation from the Forest Department that issuing of such NOC is in violation of the Act, the Deputy Commissioners have cancelled the permission/ NOC resulting in closure of the petrol pumps constructed in violation of the Forest

(Conservation) Act, 1980.